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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2001 LB 620

amendments to LB 620.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, let me explain here so that later on you don't become confused when you...when you hear later discussion. I will...I'm going to speak about my personal position. As Chair of the committee that reported out the bill and is responsible for the committee amendments, I will support and argue for adoption of the committee amendments. I will be, later on, offering a series of amendments which I think are in addition to the committee amendments, and it is my intention to oppose the bill once amended because I have grave and continue to have grave reservations about these kinds of acts as a matter of public policy. Senator Kristensen noted that they make people uneasy. I am beyond uneasy about the policies that these kinds of bills represent. If you were here when the original Quality Jobs Act was enacted, you will remember that I was an opponent of that bill as it was enacted. All of the concerns that were expressed at that time are still present and, again, I will suggest to you that, even though I will support the committee amendments and, frankly, will ask you to adopt the committee amendments because I think they are a good...they represent good changes to the bill if we're going to have the bill at all, that ultimately when the time comes I will be an opponent of the bill. That probably doesn't surprise all of you, but I hope you...I hope you see that there is not an inconsistency in my position. The committee amendments address a number of concerns. Some of them are not what I would characterize as substantive in terms of altering the original intent of the bill as introduced. Rather, I would characterize some of those changes as supplemental to the fundamental ideas contained in the bill and those ideas that are supplemental are also consistent with issues that we have seen in the context of LB 775 or other bills that we have introduced...that have been introduced and advanced from the committee. And let me outline those issues for you without going through the committee amendments in serial order. Issues that I would put in the category of conformity with existing policies is the idea of employee leasing--allowing leased employees to count as base employees for purposes of the act. Again, I will suggest to you that that is consistent with the existing policy that is a part of what we all characterize as